

Pakistan, which seek to build a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with that country.

As the largest democracy in the world, India naturally supports the international trend towards democracy. Along with other like-minded countries, we regret and condemn the subversion of democratic governance in any country through force and unconstitutional means.

Establishment of N.M.D. System

1284. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister, in a statement made on 11th May, 2001, has endorsed the proposal of the United States for establishment of a National Missile Defence System (NMDS);

(b) if so, whether this policy is intended to usher in a shift of Government's on foreign and defence policy; and

(c) whether Government have considered carefully the various possibilities before declaring a new policy affecting defence and foreign affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) In his address at the DRDO Awards Ceremony on 11th May 2001, Prime Minister, while emphasising India's firm commitment to nuclear disarmament, said that "We have never subscribed to concepts of military dominance or doctrines of mutually assured destruction. We welcome every move towards lightening the shadow of the nuclear terror under which we live today. It is in this context that we have welcomed US President Bush's suggestions for steep reductions in nuclear arsenals and a move away from further development of offensive nuclear technologies. We have also welcomed his offer of consultations with allies and major powers on a new framework of security. We believe that a genuine process of consultations, including nuclear and non-nuclear countries and taking into account existing arrangements in the security architecture, can promote the search

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for a stable new global security framework". The statement made no reference to any National Missile Defence System.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Establishment of SAARC Parliament

1285. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to move seriously to establish a SAARC Parliament on the analogy of European Parliament; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to establish a SAARC Parliament on the analogy of European Parliament under consideration of the SAARC at present.

Purchase of oil from Iraq

1286. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is buying oil from Iraq at US \$ 7.0 per barrel against a global price of US \$ 27.00 per barrel as a part of a barter deal for wheat, while this is subject to UN approval.

(b) whether it is also a fact that three consignments of wheat sent to Iraq were rejected as this consignment did not conform to global standards; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has